

CHAL-0921
Copy No. 4

18 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Evaluation of Proposed CHALICE Operations

REFERENCE : Memorandum for DD/P, dated 14 March 1960,
from AC/DPD, same subject (SC 01939-60)

1. I will probably approve the recommendations in the referenced paper but am disturbed by one aspect of the document. It appeared to me when I read it that paragraph 4 contained an excellent statement of conclusions reached by DPD on various operational aspects of the CHALICE missions under consideration. I interpreted paragraph 5 as a statement of conclusions reached independently by the ARC reflecting their judgment simply of requirements.

2. I was much surprised by the priorities given in paragraph 5 and discussed them with Mr. Reber. From him I obtained the impression that the judgment expressed by the ARC was not one of reflecting their views on requirements only but had been modified to take into account some of the operational factors mentioned in paragraph 4. Pursuing the matter further I felt the absence of any brief explanation of the basis on which priorities had been or could be established as between different requirements.

3. With respect to the first of these points I have asked Mr. Reber to do his best to prevent the ARC from expressing judgments on operational matters. In my view its role should be to state priorities as between alternative targets. To do this intelligently it may need to know what alternative missions are under consideration but it is not the proper body to weigh such factors as weather, risk, sun angle and the like.

4. With respect to the substantive matter of priorities as between the four missions here under discussion I have asked Mr. Reber to arrange to have sent to me a briefing paper which I understand you used in a meeting with the DCI and D/DCI. I understand this contains the brief justification and discussion of relative priorities of which I feel the need.

cc: C/SRS/DPD #2
C/Ops/DPD #3
DD/P Chrono #4 of 4

(s/s) Richard M. Bisell, Jr.
RICHARD M. BESSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)